



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
WASHINGTON, DC

28 AUG 2003

Office of the Assistant Secretary

**SAF/IEI**  
**1665 Air Force Pentagon**  
**Washington DC 20330-1665**

**The Honorable Duncan L. Hunter**  
**Chairman, Committee on Armed Services**  
**United States House of Representatives**  
**Washington DC 20515-6035**

**Dear Mr. Chairman**

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2811, this letter is to notify you that I have approved a \$50.0M multi-year, phased repair project at Lajes Field, Azores to repair the breakwater system. The Air Force is currently working to identify funds in the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) appropriation for this project.

Lajes Field's primary mission is to provide fuel to expeditionary air forces. This mission requires a fully operational fuel receipt pier for off-loading JP-8, diesel, and other fuels from oceangoing vessels. The breakwater system is the sole barrier to protect the pier from damaging wave action. In December 2001, Lajes withstood a violent winter storm. Although the pier remains intact, the protective 1,921 linear foot breakwater systems suffered extensive damage. This project provides required repairs necessary for long-term protection of the fuel receipt pier. This work is necessary to ensure that the fuel receipt pier can continue to supply Lajes Field with its only means of generating electrical power and the ability to refuel US Forces en route to the European and South West Asia theaters.

We have chosen to accomplish this project under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 2811. The work is classified as repair and the use of O&M funds provides the flexibility to plan the work with minimum disruption to operations while balancing our operation and maintenance and military construction programs.

A similar letter has been sent to the Ranking Minority Member of your Committee.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred W. Kuhn", is positioned above the printed name.

**FRED W. KUHN**  
**Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force**  
**(Installations)**